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Message Text

SECRET

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43
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W
---------- 121697
O P 151240Z SEP 76
FM AMCONSUL MUNICH
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7474
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN PRIORITY

S E C R E T MUNICH 2185

EXDIS

EUR FOR VINE AND ANDERSON

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: MASS, GW
SUBJECT: LOCKHEED AND THE FRG

REF: STATE 226570

1. POLOFF, WHO WAS TRAVELLING ELSEWHERE IN BAVARIA SEPTEMBER 14, CONVEYED MESSAGE IN REFTEL TO KINTTEL VERBATIM SEPTEMBER 15.

2. KNITTEL THANKED POLOFF FOR MESSAGE AND TRANSCRIBED IT. HE THEN SAID HE FACED THE PROBLEM OF WHAT TO DO WITH IT IF AND WHEN LETTER WERE MADE PUBLIC. HE SAID HE RECEIVED RECOMMENDATION YESTERDAY TO MAKE LETTER PUBLIC NOW RATHER THAN WAIT FOR SOMEONE ELSE TO DO IT. HE EMPHASIZED CSU'S PREFERENCE TO BE ON OFFENSIVE RATHER THAN DEFENSIVE IN SUCH MATTERS.

3. KNITTEL ASKED POLOFF IF HE COULD CITE STATEMENT PUBLICLY. WHEN POLOFF INDICATED HE WAS NOT IN POSITION TO AUTHORIZE KNITTEL TO DO SO, KNITTEL SAID HE WONDERED WHETHER THERE WERE ANY OFFICIAL WAY FOR CSU TO ELICIT PUBLIC STATEMENT BY USG ALONG LINES OF MESSAGE CONVEYED BY POLOFF. KNITTEL WONDERED FOR EXAMPLE, IF HE WOULD BE WELL ADVISED TO HAVE CSU LAWYER GREGOR F. GREGOROVICH (SPELLING) OF NEW YORK CITY MAKE OFFICIAL APPROACH TO "USG AGENCY" FROM WHICH
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LETTER ALLEGEDLY ORIGINATED.

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4. POLOFF INDICATED THAT HE WAS NOT IN A POSITION TO ADVISE KNITTEL ON MATTERS SUCH AS THESE. POLOFF REITERATED THAT TREATMENT OF USG STATEMENT WAS PURELY A MATTER FOR CSU TO DECIDE.

5. KNITTEL THEN ASKED POLOFF TO REQUEST PERMISSON FOR CSU TO MAKE USE OF USG STATEMENT IN PRESS RELEASE DEALING WITH LETTER. KNITTEL SAID CSU WOULD LIKE TO BE IN A POSITION TO ATTRIBUTE STATEMENT TO A SPECIFIC USG OFFICIAL OR INSTITUTION. POLOFF TOLD KNITTEL HE WOULD TRANSMIT THE REQUEST TO WASHINGTON.

6. KNITTEL GAVE POLOFF FOLLOWING ADDITIONAL DETAILS ABOUT CHANNEL THROUGH WHICH LETTER REACHED CSU. A FOREIGN JOURNALIST IN BONN NAMED (FNU) GORDON, WHO WORKS FOR GUARDIAN, CBS AND PERHAPS ALSO SEVERAL DUTCH NEWSPAPERS, RECEIVED LETTER ANONYMOUSLY BY MAIL FROM FRANKFURT. GORDON, IN TURN, FORWARDED A COPY TO CSU. KNITTEL OFFERED FOLLOWING TELEPHONE NUMBER FOR GORDON: 02221-225-126.

7. REQUEST GUIDANCE ASAP.

8. FOR BONN: ASSUME YOU HAVE CONVEYED SUBSTANCE OF REFTEL TO ACTING PRESS SPOKESMAN AT USIS.GILMORE

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